Report on Human Rights in India criticised the Government of India for its record on human rights particularly in J and K. The report mentioned reprisal killings by security forces in Kashmir and the North East, human rights abuses by paramilitary forces deployed for internal security functions, unresolved disappearances, torture in custody as common abuses.

The report, however, also mentioned the greater responsiveness on the part of Government of India to allegations of police abuse, grant of permission to foreign journalists to travel freely in Kashmir, the virtual disapprearance of terrorist violence in 1994 in Punjab and the increasingly assertive role of the judiciary in Punjab during 1994 as positive developments. The report was appreciative of the functioning of the NHRC and cited examples of intervention by the NHRC leeding to remidial action.

The report also acknowledged that Kashmiri militants were guilty of serious human rights abuses including political killings, kidnappings, extortions and acts of random terror, and had issued threats against and imposed 'bans' on newspapers that refused to carry their press releases

(c) Government have noted the difference in perception on human rights between the US and India. It has been conveyed to the US that India has adequate inbuilt safeguards within the framework of a democratic system that is fully accountable to the people, responsive to their aspirations and protective of their fundamental rights through institutions such as an independent judiciary, a free press, the NHRC and NGOs that are active in the field

Pitiable condition of Indians in the Gulf countries

1294. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian citizens are living pitiable conditions in various Gulf countries;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The living condition of Indian nationals in various Gulf countries is generally satisfactory. In exceptional cases when a complaint about living conditions is received by our Missions, the matter is taken up with the concerned authorities at an appropriate level.

Expansion of UN security council

1295. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks are on among the UN member countries for the expansion of the United Nations Security Council; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The UN General Assembly's Working Group on the "Question of Equitable Representation on an increase in the membership of the Security Council" is continuing discussion on all aspects of the reform and restructuring of the Security Council.

Misbehaviour by Sri Lankan Police

1296 SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rotarians from Tamil Nadu, visiting Sri Lanka to attend Rotary conference, were taken away by the Sri Lankan Police in February, 1995; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir, two Indian Rotarians from Tamil Nadu, visiting Sri Lanka to attend a Rotary Conference, were taken away by the Sri Lanka police on 13-2-95.

(b) Two Indian nationals, namely, (i) Shri Subramaniam Rajasekharan aged 52 years,, resident of 38A, Anna Nagar, Madurai; and (ii) Shri Arunachalam Gopinath, aged 33 years, resident of 197A East Market Madurai—1 were detained by Sri Lanka Police (Tourist Police of Fort PS, Colombo) on 13.2.95 at about 1805 hours on suspicion when they were reportedly taking pictures of the Presidential Secretariat at Galle Face Green, a prohibited place for photography. They were released on the same day at about 1940 hours their bonafides were established.

Threat due to missile tech sale on China

1297. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Missile tech sale to China a threat to India" appearing in 'The Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi dated February 22, 1995.

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein, as gathered by Government; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news report in question that the sale of US Garret engine technology to China is likely to provide it with the technological know how to make engines for long range cruise missiles.

(c) Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security and take appropriate measures to safeguard the national interest.

Raising of funds by Hurriyat leaders in Saudi Arabia

1298. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Pioneer of January 16, 1995 under the caption "Hurriyat leaders raising funds in Saudi";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard and for what purpose they have collected funds from abroad;

(c) what effective steps Government have taken or propose to take to combat such activities of militant outfits in foreign countries;

(d) whether Government have received any reports from our Missions abroad about the anti-national activities of these persons and also about the funds collected by them: if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have seen the media report.

(b) to (e) The All Party Hurriyat Conference leaders, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Maulana Abbas Ansari travelled out of the country in their individual capacities during the months from December 1994 to February 1995.

Government have reports to the effect that, during their visit abroad, they have expressed views on Jammu and Kashmir which have no relation to the ground reality, and that they have even raised some funds.